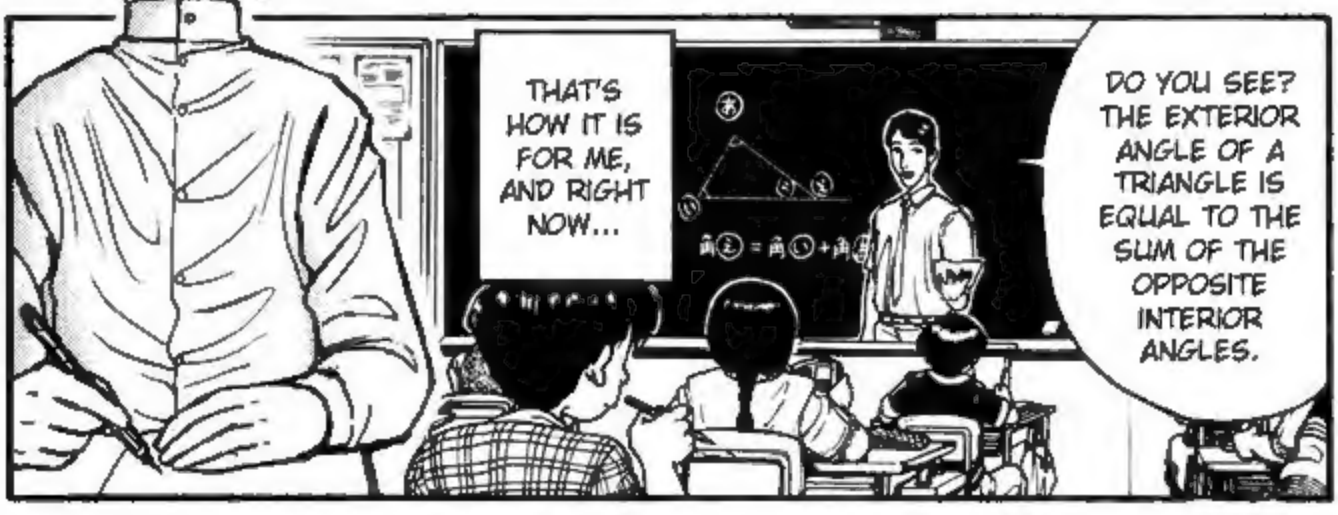
Act 2
Ryouko, the Rival

GOOD MORNING. IT'S MASARU, AND THIS IS MY FIRST DAY AT MY NEW SCHOOL. IT'S THE START OF SECOND TERM.
SHIROGANE AND LIESE-SAN ARE ALSO AT THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS.


DO YOU SEE? THE EXTERIOR ANGLE OF A TRIANGLE IS EQUAL TO THE SUM OF THE OPPOSITE INTERIOR ANGLES.
THAT'S HOW IT IS FOR ME, AND RIGHT NOW...

I'M IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION ...

す
UBUKATA-SAN, CAN I HELP YOU?

WE JUST MET AT NIGHT IN THE POOL, IT'S NOT LIKE I DID ANYTHING ...
カチ

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT UBUKATA-SAN WON'T STOP GLARING AT ME.

カマボコまゆ
FISHPASTE EYEBROWS

す…

PLEASE STOP GLARING AT ME

ガヤージ
BE QUIET, SAIGA-KUN.

角あと角いの角度をもとめなさい
70°
135°=70°+あ
135°-70°=あ
TH-THAT'S COR-RECT.
カカカカ

SAIGA-KUN, WHY DON'T YOU SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.
THE PERVERT'S NAKED MIDNIGHT POOL PARTY
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TEACHER, I'LL DO IT!
AH... SORRY, I...
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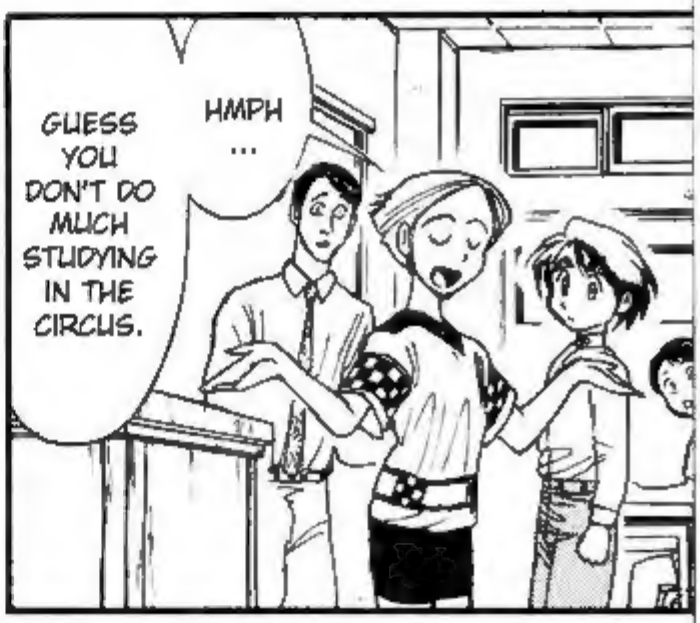
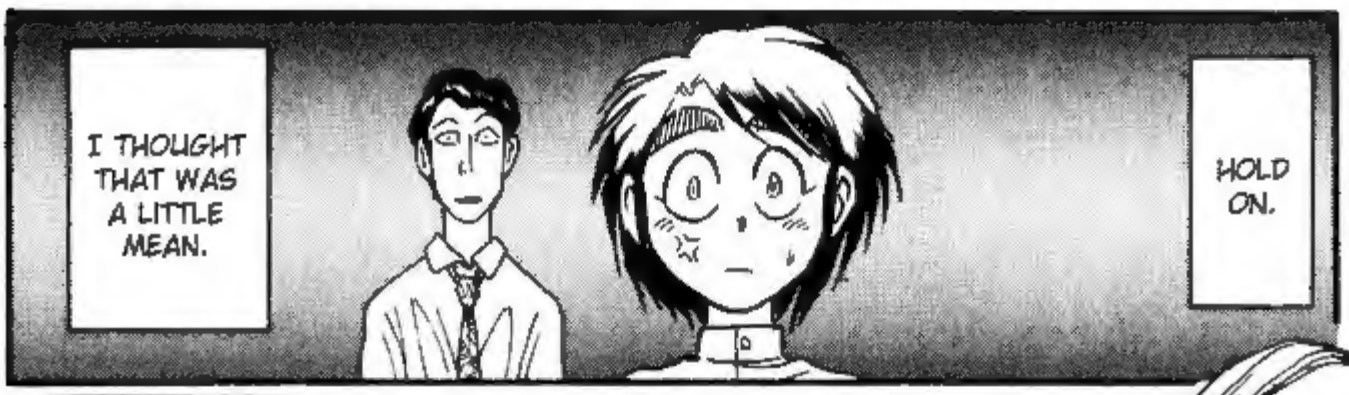
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYONE TO TEACH YOU?

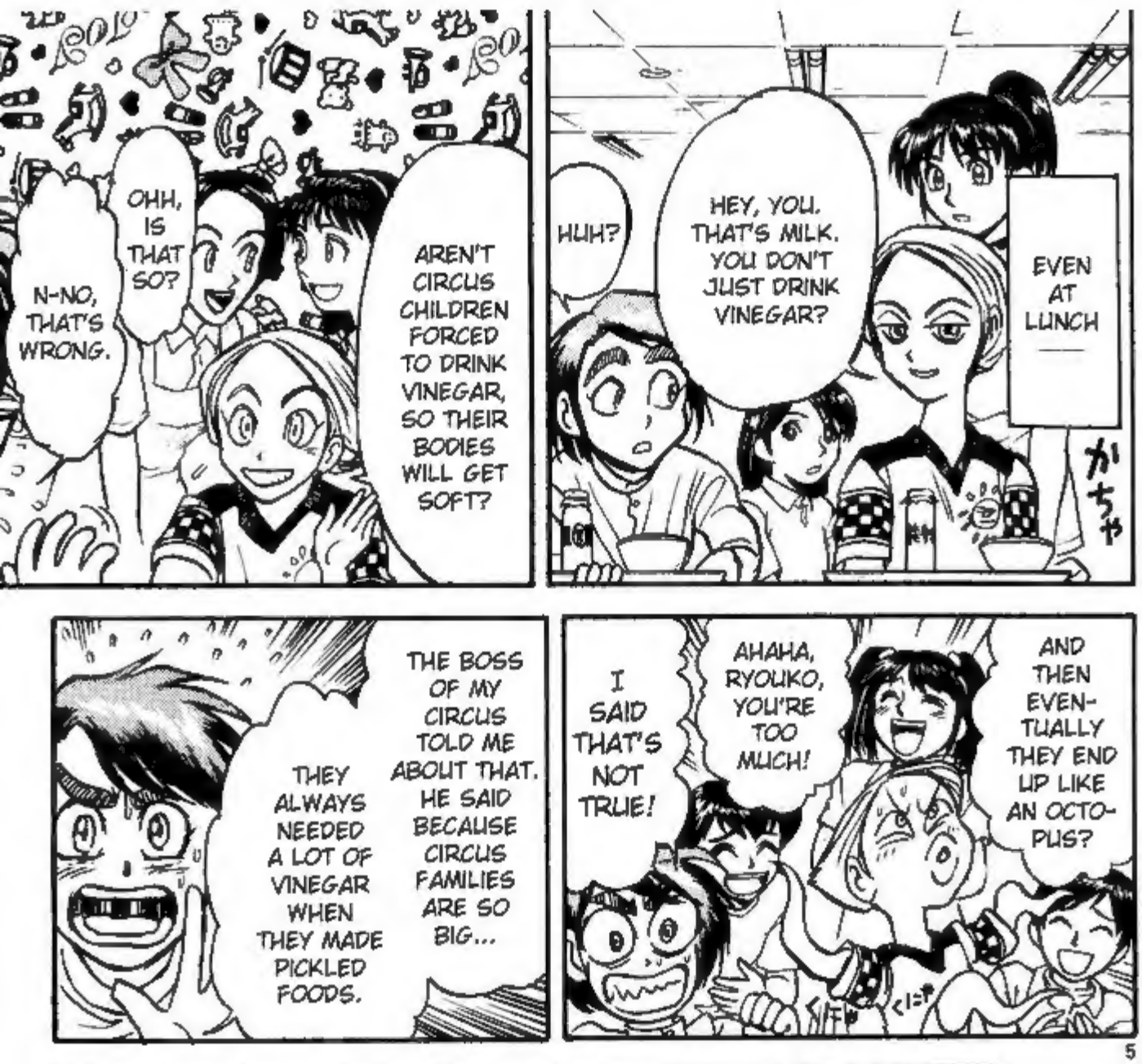

HMPH ...
GUESS YOU DON'T DO MUCH STUDYING IN THE CIRCUS.


I THOUGHT THAT WAS A LITTLE MEAN.
HOLD ON.

SHE'S CHEERFUL, FRANK, AND THE MOST POPULAR PERSON IN CLASS.

UBUKATA-SAN IS THE CLASS PRESIDENT ...
BUT SHE STILL FINDS TIME TO STUDY. SHE'S AN HONOR STUDENT WHO TOOK THE GOLD MEDAL IN A NATION-WIDE WRITING CONTEST.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?
THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON I'M UP AGAINST.


N-NO, THAT'S WRONG.
OHH, IS THAT SO?
AREN'T CIRCUS CHILDREN FORCED TO DRINK VINEGAR, SO THEIR BODIES WILL GET SOFT?
HUH?
HEY, YOU. THAT'S MILK. YOU DON'T JUST DRINK VINEGAR?
EVEN AT LUNCH
かちや
THEY ALWAYS NEEDED A LOT OF VINEGAR WHEN THEY MADE PICKLED FOODS.
THE BOSS OF MY CIRCUS TOLD ME ABOUT THAT. HE SAID BECAUSE CIRCUS FAMILIES ARE SO BIG...
I SAID THAT'S NOT TRUE!
AHAHA, RYOUKO, YOU'RE TOO MUCH!
AND THEN EVEN-TUALLY THEY END UP LIKE AN OCTO-PUS?

FINE!
OH, SO WE'RE LOSING OUR TEMPER! WHAT SAY WE SETTLE THIS WITH A MILK CHUGGING CONTEST?
HOW DID IT COME TO THIS?
HMM, I WONDER. CIRCUS FOLK ARE JUST SO DIFFERENT FROM US. I REALLY DON'T KNOW ...
I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE SAYING IT IS!
SO BECAUSE THEY ALWAYS BOUGHT SO MUCH OF IT, THE PEOPLE AT THE STORES MISUNDER-STOOD.
IT'S A VERY FAMOUS RUMOR, BUT IT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL IN MY CIRCUS!

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IF SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT THE CIRCUS, I—
GO!
BUT I WAS ABOUT TO LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT MYSELF.
AND ...
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ぶしー
I CAN'T JUST KEEP QUIET!

6

5TH PERIOD: PHYSICAL EDUCATION
ALL RIGHT, WE HAVE OUR FITNESS TEST TODAY.
I WILL BE RECORDING IT.
Saiga, that's gross.
WHAT IS IT WITH THAT GIRL!?
IT'S MY WIN AFTER ALL~!
IT ISN'T ...

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!
I THOUGHT THE CIRCUS HAD SPECIAL TRAINING FOR THE CHILDREN? WHERE THE RINGMASTER GETS AFTER YOU WITH THE WHIP?
OH, BUT ...
NO, NOT REALLY.
OH, NO! SAIGA-KUN, ARE YOU ANY GOOD AT SPORTS?

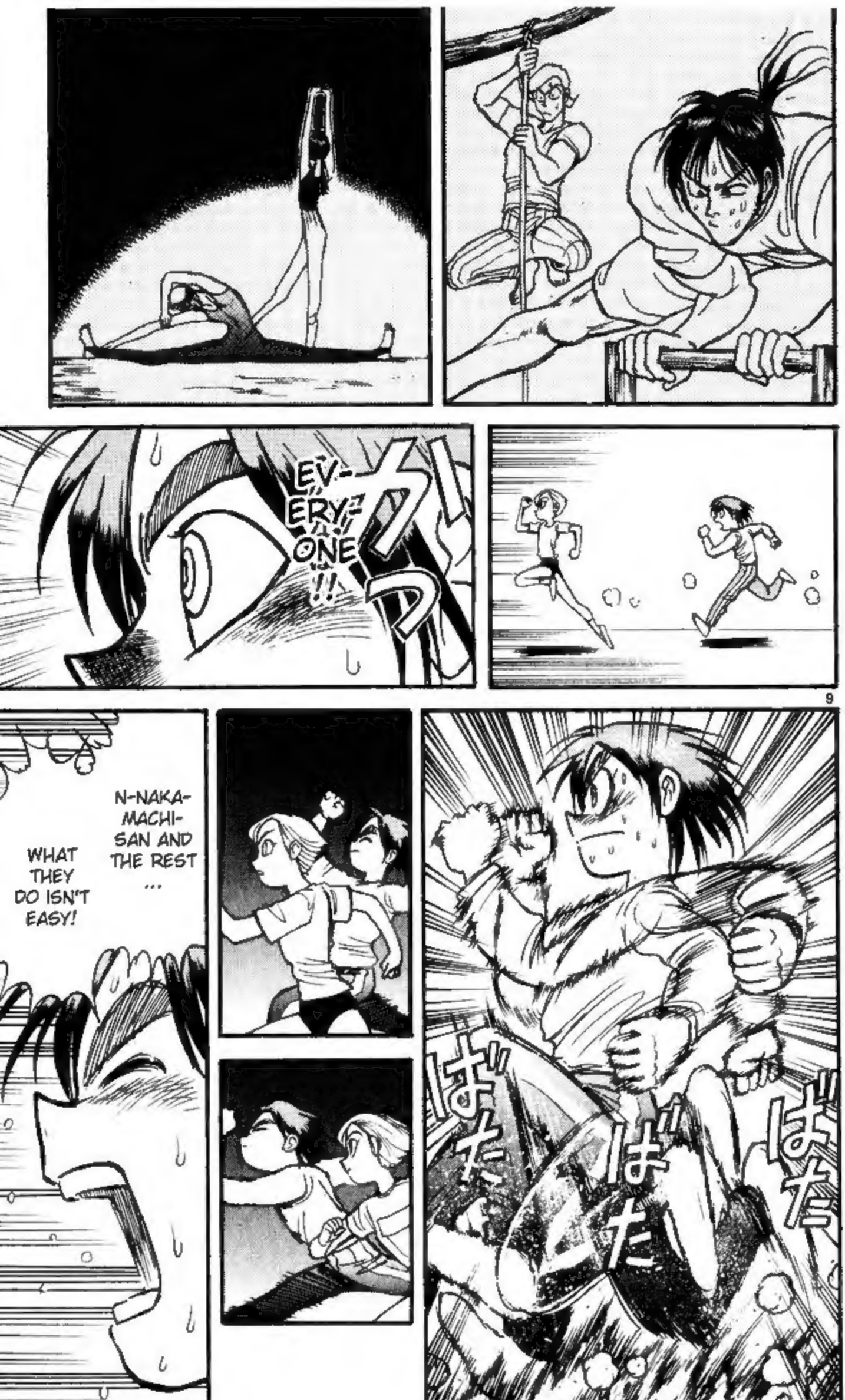
BECAUSE I HATE THEM!
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU?
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SAYING THESE THINGS ABOUT CIRCUSES !?
IF YOU SAY SO.
OUR RINGMASTER SAYS THAT BECAUSE OF THE CHILD WELFARE ACT, CHILDREN HAVEN'T BEEN FORCED TO WORK FOR A VERY LONG TIME!

SAIGA, YOU'RE UP. IT'S THE SOM DASH.
.....

IT'S FINE!
RYOUKO, WAIT A SECOND ...

I LOATHE CIRCUSES! AND THE PEOPLE IN THEM, TOO!
HUH?

UBUKATA ... DON'T MESS AROUND.
YOU AND I ARE LIVING IN DIFFERENT WORLDS ...
I HATE THAT SNOBBY AIR THAT CIRCUSES HAVE.
SO ...
YOU HAVE YOUR CAREFREE LIVES OF TRAVEL, AND YOU ONLY LOOK OUT OF THE CORNER OF YOUR EYE AT PEOPLE WORKING HARD AT HONEST JOBS. YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THEM.
I WANT TO SHOW YOU...
THAT YOU PERFORMERS ARE NOTHING SPECIAL AT ALL.
I MEAN, I'VE NEVER MET A PERSON WHO HATES THE CIRCUS SO MUCH.
CIRCUSES MAY BE STRANGE.
START!
THAT'S A SUR-PRISE!
BUT —
EVERY-ONE AT THE NAKA-MACHI CIRCUS ...


EV-
ERY-
ONE
!!
N-NAKA-
MACHI-
SAN AND
THE REST
...
WHAT
THEY
DO ISN'T
EASY!
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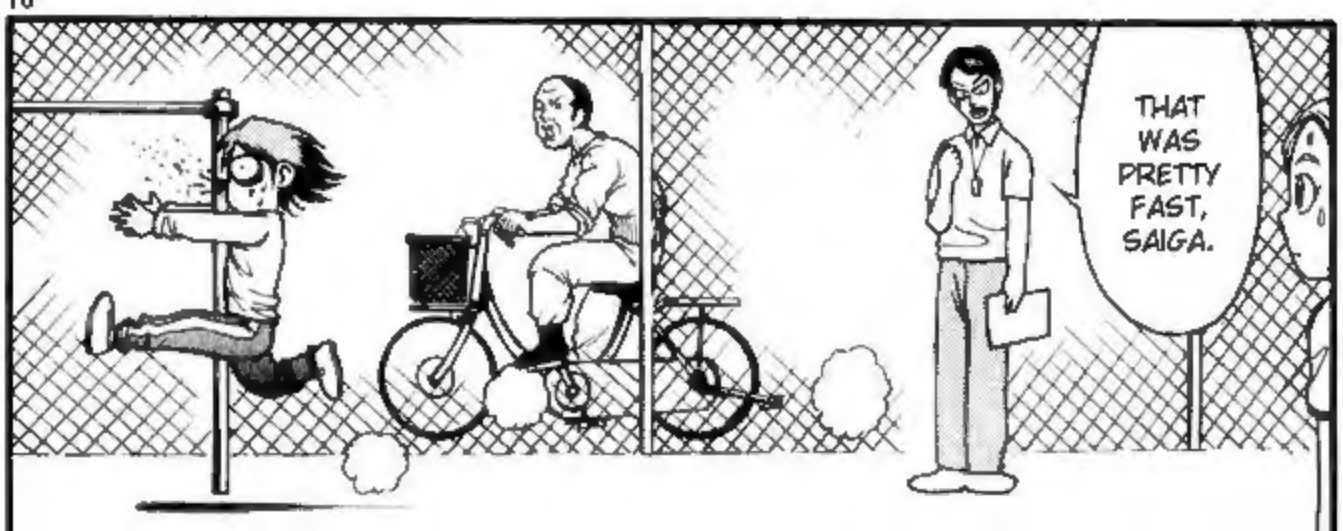
ばた
ばた

最後まで…
ちゃんとやるもんだよ。

DON'T LOOK DOWN ON THEM!!


THAT WAS PRETTY FAST, SAIGA.

ヒュー

.....
UBUKATA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ALL THIS MESSING AROUND ...
IT JUST ISN'T LIKE YOU.

ARE YOU OKAY, SAIGA?
HEEHEE... I GOT A LITTLE TOO EXCITED ...

HEY! UBU-KATA!
TEACHER, I DON'T FEEL WELL! I'M LEAVING EARLY!

きっ

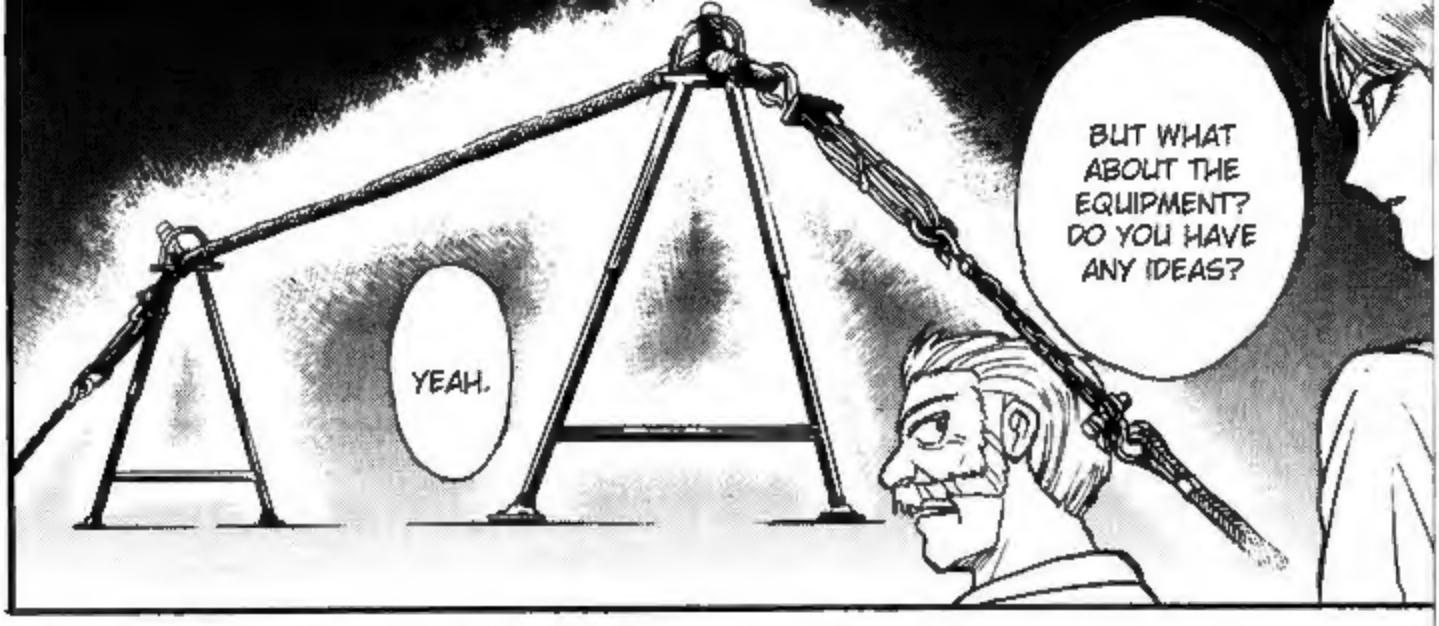
IS THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS!
WHAT I ESPECIALLY HATE, SAIGA ...
THAT'S ... A CIRCUS'S TIGHT-ROPE-WALKING TECHNIQUE ...
するするする
THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS HASN'T EVEN PUT ON A PERFORMANCE YET!
.....! HOW...DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT OUR CIRCUS?
MAYBE SHE HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH A CIRCUS?
RYOUKO'S NEVER ACTED LIKE THAT BEFORE.
I WONDER WHAT'S GOT RYOUKO SO MAD.
BOY, SAIGA, THAT WAS PRETTY BAD.
UBUKATA'S GRANDFATHER IS THE ONE WHO TAUGHT HER HOW TO WALK LIKE THAT...
MY MOM AND HERS ARE FRIENDS, SO I'VE HEARD A FEW THINGS.
AH!
BUT ISN'T HER FAMILY JUST A REGULAR OLD OFFICE WORKER FAMILY?

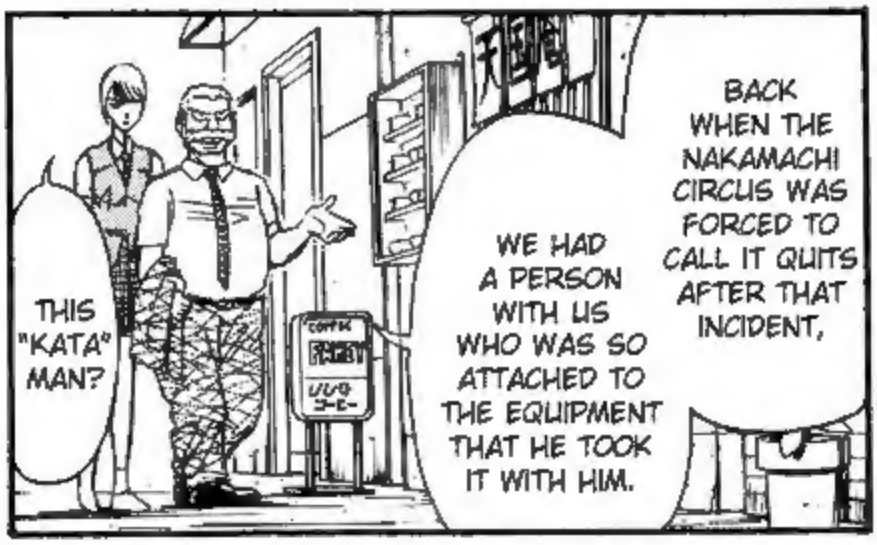
HER GRANDPA?
SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOME-ONE JUST LIKE YOU.
I HAVE SO MUCH TO DO ALREADY ...
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO REMEMBER TO COME.
HOW ABOUT IT? IN THE SPRING OF NEXT YEAR, I'D LIKE YOU TO COME CHEER FOR ME AT THE KOUSHIEN!

SH-SHIROGANE-SAN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO WALK HOME WITH US?
AMA-ZING. FIVE PEOPLE SHOT DOWN ON HER FIRST DAY.
SUGIMURA FROM THE BASEBALL CLUB BLEW IT TOO...
FROM UNDER THAT COLD BEAUTY, THERE'S A GREAT SENSE OF WARMTH THAT SOMETIMES PEEKS OUT.
THAT'S IT. THAT'S WHAT'S CONQUERED EVERYONE.
YES, LET US GO TO-GETHER.

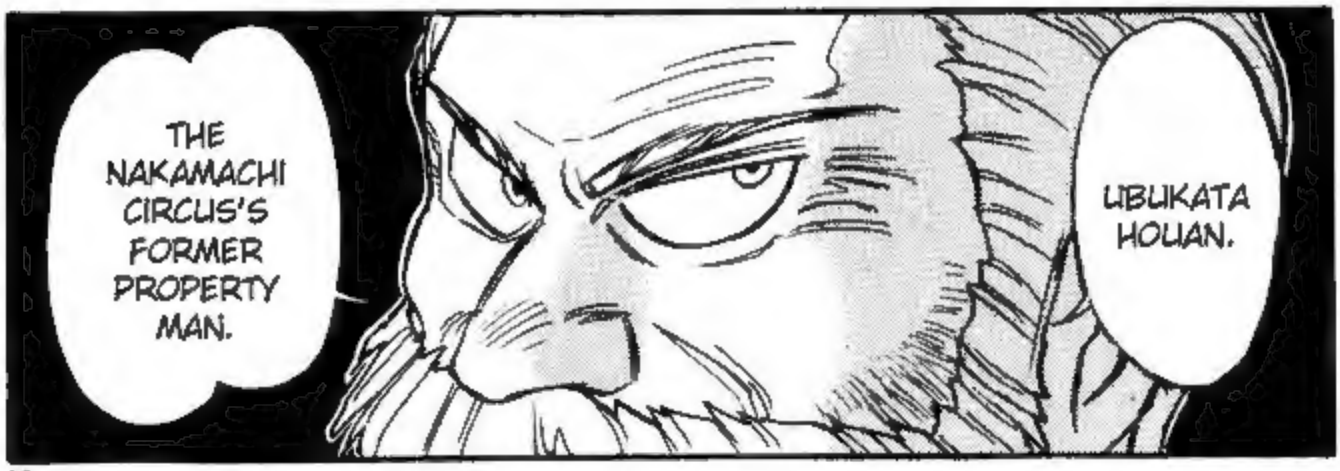
AH. RING-MASTER.
SURE WOULD BE NICE TO BE THE GUY DATING HER.
BUT SUGIMURA COULDN'T DO IT EITHER.
HEY, SHIRO-GANE.

OH, I'M SORRY. DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.
I SEE.
I'M SORRY. I'LL BE LEAVING FROM HERE TODAY.
.....
SHIRO-GANE-SAN PREFERS ...
O-OLD ...
NOOO !!
SHIRO-GANE-SAN... NOOO!!
THIS CAN'T BEEE!
WAIT, EVERYONE! AGE IS NO OBJECT IN LOVE!
TIGHT-ROPE... WALK-ING?
15
YEAH, YOU CAN DO IT, CAN'T YOU? I WAS THINKING WE SHOULD ADD SOMETHING TO OUR REPERTOIRE FOR THE UPCOMING FESTIVAL.
AFTER ALL, IF WE'RE APPEARING IN A FESTIVAL AS A CIRCUS, WE SHOULD TAKE ADVAN-TAGE OF THE SPACE...
TO DO SOMETHING A BIT MORE FLASHY THAN A PUPPET SHOW.
THAT'S TRUE.
HIRO'S SPECIALTY IS ROPE, BUT ONLY THE CORDE LISSE.
AND NORI'S IS THE TRAM-POLINE, SO THAT'S USELESS.


BUT WHAT ABOUT THE EQUIPMENT? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
YEAH.


THIS "KATA" MAN?
WE HAD A PERSON WITH US WHO WAS SO ATTACHED TO THE EQUIPMENT THAT HE TOOK IT WITH HIM.
BACK WHEN THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS WAS FORCED TO CALL IT QUITS AFTER THAT INCIDENT,

I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT, BUT IT'S HERE.


THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS'S FORMER PROPERTY MAN.
UBUKATA HOUAN.

.....
WELL, THAT OLD MAN IS SUCH A FANATIC THAT HE WON'T DO THAT.

IF IT'S TOO BROKEN DOWN, YOU GIVE UP ON IT.
YOU KNOW... SHIROGANE, AS SOMEONE WHO USES CIRCUS EQUIPMENT, YOU LOOK AT ITS CONDITION, RIGHT?
HE'S SUPPOSED TO LIVE AROUND HERE.
YES.

HE HAS AN ENCYCLOPEDIC KNOWLEDGE OF THE CIRCUS, AND HE'S NOT SHY ABOUT SHARING IT. SO HIS NICKNAME IS "THE BARKING GEEZER."
YEAH... THAT OLD MAN...
HE'S EVEN OLDER THAN ME, AND HE'S A HIDE-BOUND OLD CUSS.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD THING... BOSS, YOU SEEM RELUCTANT ABOUT THIS.
.....
AND THAT BARKING GEEZER IS GONNA BE MAD AT ME.
ANGRY AT THE ONE WHO LOST CONTROL AND HIT THAT REPORTER WHEN FACED WITH THOSE NASTY RUMORS ABOUT "EATING HUMANS"...
AT THE RINGMASTER WHO DES-TROYED HIS CIRCUS... ME.
いやああああ
YEAH... THIS IS IT.
ピンポーン
17
ガチャ
HEH HEH, DON'T GIVE ME THAT HOPEFUL LOOK, SHIROGANE.
SO THEN, FOR THE SAKE OF THE CIRCUS, WE MUST ASK HIM FOR HIS AID.

GRANDPA ...
A MAN CALLING HIMSELF... NAKAMACHI SHINOBU... WANTS TO SEE YOU.
.....
WHA-A-AT?
NAKAMACHI HAS COME HERE...!?

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

The Koushien is the park where
Japan's national high school baseball
championships are held.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text, and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill
is welcome to take over at any time or
to redo chapters I have already done
if they are below the quality that
this series deserves.